

Central Intelligence Agency

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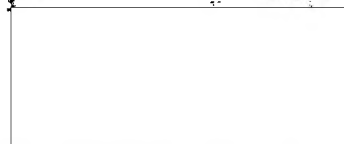
Richard H. Kohn
Chief, Office of Air Force History
Bolling Air Force Base
Washington, D.C. 20332

Dear Dr. Kohn:

At the meeting with Colonel Shiner and yourself on 14 September, our representatives mentioned that our objection to the publication of Jacob Van Staaveren's "Interdiction in Southern Laos 1960-68" was on two levels. Overall, we were primarily concerned that the release of this official U.S. Air Force history in unclassified form would not be in the best interest of the United States from a diplomatic point of view. We felt that it would put a strain on our relations with the ruling power in Laos, who were targets of much of the action described in the volume, and would make the work of our still functioning embassy in Vientiane that much more difficult. This was our foremost concern, and in this concern we were supporting the objections of the Department of State. The settlement of the specific objections we had to mention of CIA activities in the manuscript, which were enumerated in my letter to Mr. Trest of 13 August 1984, was entirely dependent on Air Force settling the problems which State had with this manuscript.

We are prepared to reconsider the specific objections we had but must view them in the context of the new version, which will eliminate the more basic objection of possibly causing damage to U.S. foreign relations. Therefore, we will defer our rereview until you have cleared your manuscript with the Department of State.

Sincerely,



Director of Information Services
Directorate of Administration

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